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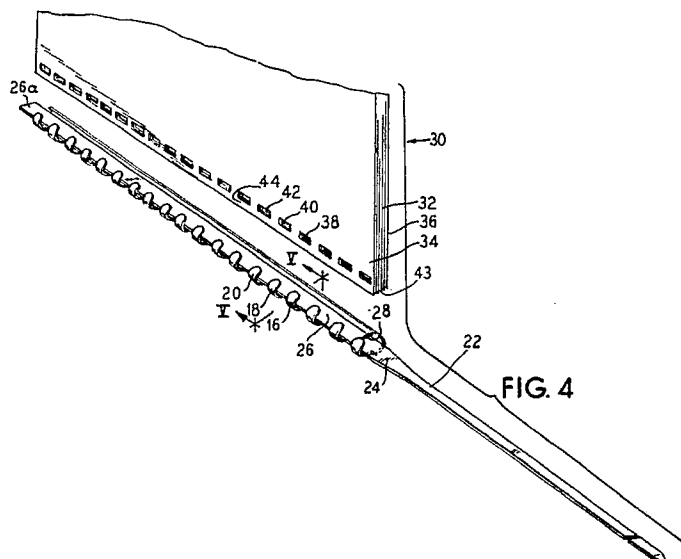
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(54) **A method of binding materials using a curled-finger ring-type binder and related apparatus.**

(57) There is disclosed herein an apparatus and method for binding prepunched and apertured materials together with a curled-finger ring-type edge binder (10) using an elongated tool (12). The tool includes leading (22), intermediate (24) and trailing (26) sections. The leading section (22) is longer than the binder, but not as wide. The intermediate section (24) which uncurls the fingers taperingly joins the leading and trailing sections. The trailing section (26)

is longer and wider than the binder, holds the fingers (16, 18, 20) open, aligns the prepunched paper relative to the fingers and can form an upwardly-facing paper receiving gap. The back end (26a) of the trailing section is transverse to the longitudinal axis of the tool for releasing the fingers so as to allow each finger to release its potential energy, extend or snap through the aperture and thus bind the paper together.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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EP 90 10 5570

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
D,A	DE-C-8 306 36 (W. BERBERICH) * page 2, lines 56 - 66 ** claim 1; figures 9, 10 * - - -	1-11	B 42 B 5/10
D,A	DE-A-2 362 440 (J. F. FOSS) - - -		
A	US-A-2 234 045 (C. E. EMMER) - - - - -		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of search 13 May 91	Examiner BOURSEAU A.M.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons &: member of the same patent family, corresponding document			